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FROM STRANGLER TO POP LARKIN - THE AMAZING STORY OF PAUL ROBERTS

From Strangler to Pop Larkin - the amazing story of Paul Roberts - an exclusive TalentGold Interview. Paul Roberts was lead singer of the archetypical punk band the Stranglers, and is shortly starring at Pop Larkin in the musical version of the Darling Buds of May.

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/Music PR News/ - March 29, 2008 - Paul Roberts was lead singer of the archetypical punk band the Stranglers, and is shortly starring as Pop Larkin in the musical version of the Darling Buds of May. This exclusive TalentGold interview charts this incredible transformation.

Paul talks about the times with the Stranglers, the split and when he realised that he " . . . had better look for another job. . ." Now Paul is playing an incredible variety of acting roles, from a Solicitor in The Bill, to an evangelist for Hell, to Pop Larkin (as previously played by David Jason) in the gentle comedy, "The Darling Buds of May". He also offers some advice to new talent trying to make it.

TalentGold: What are the three greatest memories of the heyday of the Stranglers?

Paul Roberts: The first was playing the Albert Hall in front of my father and mother. Then there was the first club tour we did in 1991, it was awesome-so intense-always sold out-brilliant. Also, travelling the world playing music - you can't beat it when it is going well.

TalentGold: It's almost been two years since you left the Stranglers. Was it a difficult decision to leave? Why did you leave?

Paul Roberts: No not at all - I had wanted to for sometime as I had realised that I had lost my voice within the unit - also the bass player and guitarist had been playing gigs without me for some reason - so I realised I had better look for another job..haha....I needed to work more and try new ideas out and it was not something they really wanted to do so we were pretty much living separate lives and that can never work in a band. Also 16 years is a long time!

TalentGold: Do you ever see any of the other Stranglers?

Paul Roberts: No - but I do very occasionally speak with Dave Greenfield the keyboard player....I also have a little contact with the drummer who was my closest friend in the band.

TalentGold: Many TalentGold members are at the start of their careers - and typically they find it very difficult to get noticed. What advice would you give them?

Paul Roberts: Keep going, 'cause if you stop then no-one will see you....believe in yourself and NEVER TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.....also don't treat it as 'fun'have fun but spend as much of your time doing it [music] as you canlive it and breath it.....also never be afraid to change things and always listen to good advice!!! You also need supportive people around you and POSITIVITY...yes?????

TalentGold: We have a number of tribute artists and bands on our TalentGold website. Everything from Frank Sinatra covers (like Michael Matone) to a number of heavy metal bands. You started a Santana tribute group - La Vida Santana - that sounds a little different from the Stranglers. Tell us about this - why did you start it and are you doing anything with it now?

Paul Roberts: Well we are still gigging occasionally....It was started by the keyboard player Martin Lawrie who runs piano courses for the Berkshire College of Music..lovely man, and was a break from the slog and restraints of being in a commercial band....it was to be with someone different too...there has to be an amazingly high level of musicianship in that line-up....which I think very important for one as an exercise in self improvement and belief...a lot of fun....I also got to play my congas and percussion....I also happen to love Santana's old material and we play it very well....we have had some incredible reviews.....it was just something free and easy in between the Stranglers really.

TalentGold: Same question about SoulSec - we see that you are doing a few gigs. What's the future of Soulsec, and how does this fit in with your acting? Is it like starting all over again?

Paul Roberts: No no Soulsec has been going for years ...I have written four albums and five singles....we have an amazing line-up (that has very occasionally changed) again of

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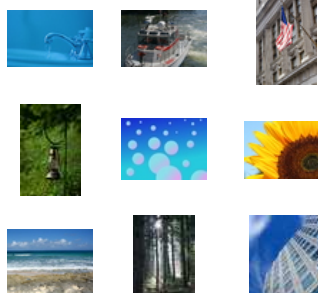
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very gifted players from all over the music scene.....all the guys have toured with many massive artists.....it is an ongoing thing.....but my acting is more important right now really....I spend more time with that at the moment and have very high hopes.

TalentGold: Does music still give you a buzz?

Paul Roberts: Yes and no....I never want to be in the position I was with the stranglers again but love original music and will never give it up...I am also writing some swing tunes at the moment with a very gifted jazz/latin pianist called terry seabrook.....I absolutely love jazz and swing being brought up on it and put together a six piece band two years ago which gigged quite a few times and also perform american songbook stuff with another six piece when I have time ..and get asked hahaha.....so.... watch this space as they say.....

TalentGold: Playing Pop Larkin in Darling Buds of May? Many fans will see that a very different from being a Strangler! Any comments?

Paul Roberts: Well it is.....I suppose I could spit a bit if you like....??? lol....well my last three roles have been.....playing 'mephistopheles smith' the evangelist for hell.....'ovid' - a roman poet...and 'pop larkin' a lovable rogue.....it doesn't get much more diverse than that !!

TalentGold: Is it true - were you on the Bill? As a solicitor? Was this a bit of a turnaround from being a Strangler? (Feel free to strongly deny this if it's not true!)

Paul Roberts: I strongly admit it ! officer!!!! just a bit of fun again - you know.....got to have a laugh-whilest getting paid of course.....!!

TalentGold: Looking at the above, you seem to be multi-talented. Was this a deliberate decision on your part, or did it just happen?

Paul Roberts: mmmm erm it is not something you can plan - I suppose I am just lucky - but I work very hard and maybe it is a kind of pay off?? it really is not anything I have thought too hard about,i think that is a dangerous thing to do....but I am lovin' what I am doing again and that is so so important....even if you aren't getting Hollywood wages.....it aint the money guv'.....also it is a life change which can be very difficult for people around you and I love my friends and family and they have all been brilliantly supportive of anything I have ever embarked upon.

TalentGold: Any final thoughts to leave our TalentGold members with? Maybe something to encourage them with?

Paul Roberts: There is always someone worse off than you.....never forget that....be original.....and remain a 'half full' person!!!..not a half empty onegeddit??.....and the very very best of luck.

- Ends -

Contacts

Paul is available for interviews and appearances. Please contact press@talentgold.com to arrange these.

The press office is available on 07 803 938 05 (although initial contact via email is preferred to ensure that we have all your contact details.) Please ask for Martin, Paul or Vikki.

Additional Information for Editors

TalentGold is one of the fastest growing entertainment specific social networking sites. It contains a wide variety of talent from new and emerging talent to established chart-toppers from the 60's.

Paul Roberts was the former lead singer of The Stranglers. He is set to star in the lead role of brand new rock and roll musical "Darling Buds of May" ; The Musical opening this April 8th. A UK tour of the musical is set to commence through to next year.

After 16 years as the lead singer Paul Roberts has a huge fan base. He now takes the lead role of Pop, originally made famous by David Jason in the TV series which also starred Catherine Zeta-Jones.

The musical opens in Southsea at the number one theatre, The Kings Theatre on 8th April with Paul Roberts in the lead role.

Paul is available now for interviews about the tour. Also available are writer David Burton, composer Heather Uden and director Richard Stride.

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Press Release Contact Information:

Martin Berman
TalentGold Ltd

Press Office
WA2 0EJ
Voice: 07 803 938 805
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